

Child Support Enforcement, ESSB 6418

New federal legislation requires states to adopt laws using Social Security numbers on applications for drivers' as well as hunting and fishing licenses. The feds say improved tracking systems would crack down on deadbeat parents. While I agree that child support is an undeniable responsibility, our Constitution protects your privacy. Divulging Social Security numbers could compromise everyone's financial security through fraudulent, unauthorized use. I vote **NO**, but the bill passed.

Partial-birth Abortion Ban

The Senate passed ESHB 2395 but the bill failed when it returned to the House. I voted **YES** on this controversial measure. It is best explained by reading section one of the bill: *"It is a class-C felony for a physician to perform a partial-birth abortion on a viable fetus except to protect the life or health of the mother."*



Transportation Package

The biggest challenge of the session was to make much-needed improvements to our state highways. Unfortunately, the Legislature could not agree on a funding package that starts immediately. Instead, the Legislature dodged its responsibility to upgrade our transportation system. The transportation plan (Referendum 49) will be on the ballot in November. If the referendum passes, \$2.4 billion in transportation improvements, primarily in King County, would be financed through a complex 25-year funding plan. I voted **NO** on this approach.

On another transportation issue, HB 1012 would have refinanced bonds and provided \$60 million for continued work on Hwy 18, the First Ave. So. Bridge in Seattle, and a new freeway in Spokane. With interest rates falling, this bill was a simple way to raise construction funds and avoid delays. Bond bills require 30 votes in the Senate. Unfortunately, partisan politics defeated this common sense measure on a 29 to 20 vote. I voted **YES**.



Disabled Parking, SB 6190

SB 6190 raises the fine for misuse of disabled parking placards to \$250. Abuse of the system designed to aid our disabled population is rampant. The bill also authorizes volunteers to assist with enforcement. I voted **YES**.

Salmon Enhancement

In February, the federal government listed Puget Sound chinook salmon and several other wild salmon as potential endangered species. In an effort to stave off federal control of our natural resources, the Legislature passed a series of bills to fund local salmon recovery projects, and track the progress of the those efforts. We also gave more power to local communities to create their own water-use plans, including habitat restoration. I supported these bills.

Fish & Wildlife

Our Fish & Wildlife Department faces serious revenue shortfalls as fewer citizens purchase fishing and hunting licenses. I supported emergency measures to keep enforcement of our wildlife laws at current levels. Severe cuts in enforcement would allow poachers to do incredible damage. I also voted against the Senate confirmation of Jolene Unsoeld to the Fish & Wildlife Commission. In my opinion she had become too controversial, and needed to step aside for the overall good of our wildlife and the Commission's operations.

Same-sex Marriage Ban, HB 1130

The question of whether to legalize same-gender marriages has been debated for many years. The Legislature voted to define marriage as the union between a man and a woman in order to avoid court cases in other states. Gov. Locke's veto was over-ridden by both houses of the Legislature. I voted **YES**.

Educating Juveniles Incarcerated in Adult Institutions

My bill, SB 6600, passed unanimously. Fifty-seven juveniles ages 15 to 17 at the Washington Correction Center in Shelton will now be educated by the state. Shelton School District will not be required to educate these offenders, nor will any local taxpayer funds be used for these new education programs. When released, educated felons are much less likely to re-offend.

WWII Memorial



Design rendering by Simon Kogan, the McGranahan Partnership.

Washington's World War II veterans will soon get the memorial they've deserved for more than 50 years on the Capitol Campus in Olympia. As a member of the WWII Memorial Fund Raising Committee, I think the recognition of more than 5,500 men and women who gave their lives for our country during WWII is long overdue. The fund raising goal of the project is \$700,000. The state Legislature has already contributed \$75,000, but the bulk of project construction depends on private donations. You can view the memorial design on the WWII Memorial website at: [www.wa.gov/dva/wwii](http://www.wa.gov/dva/wwii) or call **1-800-562-2308** for more information.

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## Senator Tim Sheldon

412 John A. Cherberg Building  
PO Box 40482  
Olympia, WA 98504-0482



*Dear neighbor,  
In the flurry of the 1998  
legislative session, it is  
often hard to know how  
your elected officials  
voted on major issues.  
As your state senator, I  
believe citizens deserve a  
brief summary of major  
on behalf of the 35<sup>th</sup> District.*

*The main objective of the session was to make adjustments to the \$19.1 billion budget while staying under the voter-approved I-601 spending limits. While small steps were made for salmon recovery and tougher drunk driving laws, there were a lot of missed opportunities for rural economic development, education, and children's health care.*

*This year we considered more than 1,200 bills, and sent 375 to the Governor for his signature. I've touched briefly on some of these bills in this report. If you would like more information about these and other issues from this past session, please drop me a line or give me a call.*

*As always, I'm glad to help out.*

*Sincerely,*

Tim Sheldon

*Tim Sheldon*  
*State Senator, 35<sup>th</sup> District*

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## SESSION UPDATE

## \$19.1 Billion General Fund Budget

The Legislature fine-tuned the budget adopted last year. We are spending \$68 million below the voter-approved I-601 spending limit. While this spending plan allocates more funding for programs such as salmon restoration and care of the developmentally disabled, there were opportunities lost to reduce K-12 class size and equalize school levies for poorer districts. I vote **NO**.

## Charter Schools, SB 7901

This bill and others like it would have initially allowed a small number of new public schools to be formed by teachers and parents. It passed the House but was never voted on by the Senate.

## Drunk Driving Enforcement

In an effort to reduce alcohol-related accidents on our roads, the Legislature passed a package of bills designed to crack down on drunk drivers. I voted **YES** on all measures. The new laws will:

- Reduce the legal blood-alcohol level (BAC) from 1.0 to .08 percent.
- Suspend drivers' licenses for at least seven years for a third offense.
- Mandate ignition locks for drivers convicted with a .15 percent or higher BAC.
- Allow impoundment of vehicles operated by a person with a suspended or revoked license.

## New Passenger-only Ferries

SB 6325 authorizes four new high-speed ferries to run from Kingston and Southworth to Seattle. Improving cross-Sound services would provide more options for our commuters. I voted **YES**.